

Application No. 09/496,061
Amendment filed with RCE

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 27-45 have been canceled, without prejudice, and claims 46-51 have been added.

New independent claim 46 has been added to clarify the features of the present invention whereby an endoscope image sensing apparatus is provided which comprises: an image sensing device for imaging an object to obtain an image signal, and outputting the image signal; a storage section for storing a plurality of color matrices each corresponding to a plurality of color tones for displaying an observation image of the object on a display section; a selecting section for selecting a color matrix from the plurality of color matrices for displaying the observation image in a color tone desired by an observer; and a computing section for performing computation using the selected color matrix to convert the image signal output from the image sensing device to a color component signal, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 12, line 13 to page 18, line 14 (in particular, see page 17 line 5 to page 18, line 14).

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New claim 47 has been added depending from claim 46 to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the image sensing device comprises a color CCD, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at for example, page 11, lines 3-4.

New claim 48 has been added depending from claim 46 to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the selecting section comprises a selecting switch provided in a signal processing device for processing the image signal, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at for example, page 12, lines 15-21.

New claim 49 has been added depending from claim 48 to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the selecting switch is provided on a front portion of the signal processing device, based on (now canceled) claim 37.

New independent claim 50 has been added based on the subject matter of new independent claim 46 and to positively recite a signal processing device.

And new independent method claim 51 has been added corresponding to new independent claim 46.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 46-51 be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that new claims 46-51 are readable on the elected species of Fig. 2.

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THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 27, 36, 37 and 40-43 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 4,924,856 ("Noguchi"), and claims 28-35, 38, 39, 44 and 45 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Noguchi and USP 5,032,913 ("Kikuchi et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 46-51.

Noguchi (which is assigned to the same corporate entity as the present application) is directed to an endoscope light source apparatus which allows different types of illumination (i.e. field sequential or white color light) to be switched based on the type of scope. According to the teachings of Noguchi, different types of illumination are used based on whether the electronic scope is a type which uses a video processor 5 or a camera control unit 6 to process the image signal. However, it is respectfully submitted that Noguchi merely discloses switching the type of illumination light, and it is respectfully submitted that Noguchi does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the claimed present invention whereby the matrix used for processing the image signal to display the observation image of the object in a color tone desired by the user is converted to a matrix corresponding to the color tone of the observation image to be displayed.

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That is, it is respectfully submitted that Noguchi does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the claimed present invention whereby a plurality of color matrices are stored, each matrix corresponding to a plurality of color tones for displaying an observation image of the object on a display section; and whereby a color matrix is selected from the plurality of color matrices for displaying the observation image in a color tone desired by an observer; and whereby a computation is performed using the selected color matrix to convert the image signal output from the image sensing device to a color component signal.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Kikuchi et al also does not disclose, teach or suggest these features of the claimed present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Noguchi and Kikuchi et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the claimed present invention still would not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in new independent claims 46, 50 and 51, as well as claims 47-49 depending from claim 46, all patentably distinguish over Noguchi, taken singly or in combination with Kickuchi et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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